

The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Settlement Point of View.

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"Hullo."

BY SAM. WALTER FOSS.

W'en you see a man in woe,
Walk right up and say "hullo!"
Say "hullo" and "how d' ye do!"
"How's the world a-usin' you?"
Slap the fellow on his back,
Bring your han' down with a whack;
Waltz right up, an' don't go slow,
Grin an' shake an' say "hullo!"

Is he clothed in rags? O sho!
Walk right up an' say "hullo!"
Rags is but a cotton roll
Just for wrappin' up a soul;
An' a soul is worth a true
Hale an' hearty "how d' ye do!"
Don't wait for the crowd to go;
Walk right up and say "hullo!"

W'en big vessels meet, they say,
They saloot an' sail away
Jest the same as you an' me;
Lonesome ships upon a sea;
Each one sailing his own jog
For a port beyond the fog.
Let yer speakin' trumpet blow,
Lift yer horn an' cry "hullo!"

Say "hullo," an' "how d' ye do!"
Other folks are good as you.
W'en yer leave yer house of clay,
Wanderin' in the Far-Away,
W'en you travel through the strange
Country t'other side the range,
Then the souls you've cheered will know
Who ye be, an' say "hullo!"

Juvenile Offenders in the City of Detroit.

BY RICHARD A. BOLT, *UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

The city of Detroit is, at present, in a very favorable position to take steps to prevent the growth of juvenile delinquency. The seemingly hopeless conditions which prevail in the congested districts of New York, Chicago and other great centers of population need never be repeated here if proper preventive measures are taken. Seeds of the tenement and slum, however, are already sown in Detroit and unless their growth is nipped in the bud we may expect to reap a full crop of disease, pauperism and crime. No more fertile soil for juvenile delinquency could be found than the slum.

The rank growth of tenements and slum can, in a large measure, be successfully prevented by providing better houses for the poor; by preserving ample open space; by laying out playgrounds and placing them in charge of competent instructors, and by supplying public baths. More careful attention should be given to the education of truant children, and more intelligent treatment to juvenile offenders in police courts and jail.

At present a strong public sentiment is being aroused to the need of improved methods in the treatment of our juvenile offenders. A number of interested individuals are exerting their influence in this direction and several prominent clubs of Detroit have taken the matter into consideration. The daily press from time to time has expressed the growing sentiment. The National Conference of Corrections and Charities held in this city May 28 to June 3 last gave an added impetus to the subject. After five months' careful study of the situation in Detroit it appears to me that the conditions will justify the establishment of some form of a juvenile court with an efficient probation system.

After all the consideration the problem has received crime remains in the social organism as a source of much distress. It is a significant fact, if such eminent authorities on criminal matters as W. D. Morrison and Mr. Frederick Howard Wines are to be credited, that the total number of offenses against the criminal law is steadily on the increase, and in some places increasing in a greater ratio than the population. This should receive thoughtful

*[NOTE.—The author of this article received a university assignment to investigate juvenile delinquency in the city of Detroit, with reference to the movement for the establishment of a juvenile court in that city. He resided in the Franklin Street Settlement and also worked in connection with the Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church. His article here published is condensed from his thesis in which he reported the results of his investigation. His work contributed material to enlist attention and effort in securing for Detroit the advantages enjoyed by other cities from the successful enactment and operation of a juvenile court law. The university's representative at Chicago Commons three years ago investigated and reported upon the working of the juvenile court in Chicago.]

attention, as the stability and welfare of society depends largely upon its internal peace and prosperity.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND ADULT CRIME.

When the causes of this increase are sought we are confronted with complex problems which reach down to the roots of individual character and to the foundations of the social order. Whatever the ultimate causes may be, it is reasonably certain that the rise and extent of juvenile delinquency is closely related to adult crime. It is a fact supported by reliable statistics that, as a rule, the men who become habitual offenders begin their careers quite young. We must therefore look to the children—to their heredity and environment—if we wish to know something of the causes of crime, and give it intelligent treatment.

As society becomes more and more complex a greater number of offenses come under the ban of the law. Opportunities for committing anti-social acts are multiplied. In taking preventive measures society often enacts laws which increase the liability of a larger proportion of children being classed as juvenile offenders. This is readily seen in offenses against the legislative acts, "To Prevent Crime and Punish Truancy" and "To Provide for the Compulsory Education of Juvenile Disorderly Persons." In the city of Detroit a number of standing regulations, known as city ordinances, have also been adopted which are designed to preserve the peace and promote the welfare of the municipality. Offenses against these ordinances are only semi-criminal in nature, and are disposed of in the Recorder's Court in a summary manner. Thus it is seen that not only children who violate the fundamental laws of society, but also those who commit numerous trivial offenses come to be classed as juvenile offenders.

FACTS FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER.

In the Police returns for the city of Detroit it will be noticed that among the large number of different offenses with which juveniles may be charged that the greatest number fall under the heads of "simple larceny," "truancy" and "juvenile disorderly" respectively. With boys, "assault and battery" and "malicious injury to buildings" also make up quite a number of offenses. With girls, on the other hand, the number of different offenses is much smaller, and, as one would expect, involve little or no physical violence. Of the total 688 juvenile arrests last year 571 were boys and 118 girls. The total number of arrests of boys for the past five years has been 2,598, and of girls 519.

On the average between five and six boys are arrested each year to one girl. This, of course, is only a rough index to the total amount of juvenile delinquency in the city. Not all the "bad boys" are, by any means, arrested; the "goody-goodies" are quite likely to fall into the hands of the police. Moreover, there are many dependent and neglected children on the verge of delinquency who cannot, in any real sense, be considered juvenile offenders. The fact, however, of such a large number of juvenile arrests should cause every intelligent citizen to ponder the causes and exert an influence for better treatment.

THE AGE FACTOR.

The age of our juvenile offenders is closely related to the number and nature of the offenses. Boys usually begin their sinister career with truancy at eight, nine or ten years of age. "In the great majority of cases the boy is not to blame for his truancy. He is a lad with a distaste for school, a disregard for parental authority, and possible physical, mental and moral deterioration." It might be added that this is largely due to parental neglect and insufficient or improper nutrition. "The distaste for school" is sometimes engendered in the school itself.

Truancy if not checked soon becomes habitual. From habitual truancy to vagrancy is an easy step. The next is to petty larceny. By this time the boy has probably been two or three times before the police court. Perhaps he has had his first experience behind prison bars. He is going through the hardening process. Gradually the boy evolves into an habitual offender. The largest number of boys arrested are between fourteen and fifteen years of age. Between these ages the largest number are committed to the Industrial School for Boys at Lansing.

With girls the case is somewhat different. Very few arrests are made between eight and twelve years of age. After thirteen the number of girls brought into the police court rapidly rises until between sixteen and seventeen years we find the largest number arrested. Between these ages, as one would expect, the largest number are committed to the Industrial Home for Girls at Adrian.

In dealing with the juvenile offender it should ever be remembered that on account of its immaturity the child bears an entirely different relation to crime from that of the habitual adult offender. A child is in the formative period when impressions for good or bad are most easily made. What it does is mostly

the result of home surroundings and school associations. It is true there seems in some children to be a predisposition to criminal actions; but even in such cases much can be done to save the child by furnishing a wholesome environment and suitable education.

Again, a child cannot understand the highly complex relations which exist in modern society. It must attain a social life by a process of gradual development. Biologically speaking, the child is an animal working out the life history of the race in its own active life. It recapitulates certain phases in the life of its primitive ancestors. Accordingly, migratory and predatory instincts frequently manifest themselves. If a child happens to commit some offense against the laws of the more highly organized society in which it is living, it cannot, in any true sense, be considered a criminal; but rather that it is living in an age when migratory and predatory instincts were predominant. Through these stages of growth the child should have careful guidance. It does not need punishment, or even reformation, so much as it does *formation*.

WHAT THE CAPTAINS HAVE TO SAY.

On a recent tour of the police precincts of Detroit the question was asked the captains what in their opinion was the principal cause of juvenile delinquency. Practically without exception the answer was "neglected childhood resulting from bad home surroundings and vicious street associations." Many others having to do with juvenile offenders have substantially given the same answer.

Two boys charged with precisely the same offense would be equally guilty in the sight of the law; but they might need entirely different treatment, depending upon their home environment and education. With one the offense might be very serious; with the other it might indicate only a temporary lapse or primitive instinct which showed neither premeditation nor malice. Such a case comes to mind as I write.

A bicycle had been taken from a rack in front of one of the summer gardens, and two boys, each 14 years of age, were arrested by a detective for stealing it. They were arraigned in the Police Court, and their case was set for the following Monday morning. Both were allowed to return to their homes with the assurance that they would appear when their case was called. During the week the boys were noticed loitering about the courts and jail with the hope of seeing a man then on trial for a horrible murder. When Monday morning came

the boys were again seen in front of the court house; but when their case was called in the Police Court they failed to appear.

Later it was found that the boys had stolen two other "wheels" and had taken them to Canada, where they were sold for five dollars apiece. On returning to Detroit the boys were afraid to go to their homes, so they lived in cheap rooming and boarding houses downtown. They were arrested again and brought into court. This time both boys were confined in the county jail until the day of their trial. They were then found guilty and sentenced to the Industrial School for Boys at Lansing.

Both boys were equally guilty according to law; but the causes leading to their offenses were essentially different. Billy had been to Lansing before. The stealing of bicycles was not his first offense. He was evidently "a very bad boy" and on the road to a criminal career. It was he who largely influenced the other boy to steal the first "wheel," and again to disappear on the day of the trial. Roy, on the other hand, was weak-willed and unfortunate. This was his first offense against the law. Previous to arrest he had been working. His father had a criminal record. Roy while quite young was placed in a house of refuge as a destitute child. Relatives of his mother, however, removed him to Detroit; but they cared very little for him. Naturally he drifted to the streets, where he was easily drawn into the offense for which he was arrested. What this boy needed more than anything else was a good home with some one to look intelligently after him.

WHAT A BAD HOME MEANS.

Another case which well illustrates the pernicious effects of a wretched home environment is that of Willie K., a black-haired, bright-eyed little Polish fellow of nine years. Willie's father had been sentenced to the State prison at Jackson for five years. During his confinement the mother "took up" with another man, and in some ways sadly neglected her two boys and two girls. Just before the father was released, in March, she ran away with the other man, leaving all the children with a neighbor. The father returned and found the children—but with reputation gone and no definite work in sight he could not support them. So the two girls were placed in the Home for the Friendless and the boys had to shift for themselves. Where else had they to go but to the streets or to cheap lodging houses? The father could not afford to pay board for them where they were staying.

Willie, alert upon the streets, struck up an acquaintance with a boy who possessed a bicycle. It was not long before he obtained permission to ride. The ride was so exhilarating that Willie rode too far, and then did not think it worth while to return the wheel. The police were notified and he was arrested; but being so young, Willie was let off on suspended sentence. In the same week of the release he went into a neighbor's house, took a pocket-book, and spent the money. Another complaint was entered against him. While the truant officers were looking him up another wheel was stolen. He was brought up in the Police Court on Monday morning; but as there was no place suitable to send him, he was again let off. Willie, to complete his record, broke several car windows. While the truant officers were puzzling themselves what to do with the boy, a gentleman interested in this sort of boys took Willie to a farm near Jackson. Since then, from all reports, he has been doing quite well. Perhaps all he needed was an opportunity to exercise his superabundant energies where little harm could be done.

The cases cited above show how intimate is the relation between destitute, neglected and delinquent children. A distinct line can hardly be drawn between them. Imperceptibly they merge one into the other. A number of similar cases might be given, but these are suggestive enough. They well illustrate the fact that juvenile offenders are, in a large measure, the product of adverse social conditions. When police, court and jail officials, backed up by an intelligent public sentiment, fully realize this, much better treatment of our juvenile offenders will be assured.

SQUARING THE CITY TO THE STATE'S STANDARD.

It must be admitted that in the treatment of her neglected, dependent and delinquent children Michigan stands for some of the most advanced and logical methods. The placing-out system in the State aims to reduce the number of children retained in large institutions and place them in a more natural and healthy environment. The appointment by the Governor of a County Agent for each county in the State, whose duty it is to look after all dependent, neglected and delinquent children is no doubt a step in the direction of a more thorough probation system. At present the County Agents in large city districts have more cases than they can well investigate and conscientiously follow up. It is also unfortunate that the office is under political control. Too frequent change in Agents is not conducive to the best

interests of the children whose friend and guide the County Agent should be. The County Agent system with a few desirable changes could easily be made the basis for an efficient probation system, and with a separate juvenile court in the large cities would place Michigan in the forefront in her treatment of unfortunate children.

The State Public School at Coldwater has done good work in caring for and placing out numbers of destitute and dependent children. In both the Industrial School for Boys and the Industrial Home for Girls an effort is made to conduct them largely on the "cottage plan." All high walls and fences, as well as unnecessary bolts and bars, have been done away with. But there is still room for better treatment of delinquent children in the police courts and jails of the larger cities throughout the State.

The conditions which prevail in Detroit for the treatment of juvenile offenders are subject to much improvement. A careful investigation would convince any unbiased person of this. It is true that Act No. 110, approved May 9, 1901, provides that "no child under sixteen years of age, while under arrest, confinement or conviction for any crime, shall be placed in any apartment or cell of any prison or place of confinement with any adult who shall be under arrest, confinement or conviction for any crime, or shall be permitted to remain in any court room during the trial of adults, etc." It also provides that "the trial of children under sixteen years of age for any crime or misdemeanor, before any magistrate or justice of the peace, or in any court, shall be heard and determined by such court at a suitable time, to be designated therefor by it, separate and apart from the trial of other criminal cases."

An attempt has been made to adhere to the letter of the law by setting apart Monday mornings for the trial of juvenile offenders; but it was found practically impossible to keep them entirely apart from the contaminating influence of a criminal court. The cases are tried in the lower police court by a justice jury in almost the same manner as adult offenders. Sometimes older offenders have been brought handcuffed to the wrist on an officer into the court room and arraigned while juvenile cases were in progress. At the time set for juvenile cases it was my experience to usually find the court room crowded to the doors. It had all the appearance of a criminal court. A lack of decorum was noticeable on several occasions, the bailiff having constantly

to call the spectators to order. A number of young boys and girls, having apparently nothing to do with the cases, have often been seen present.

The prosecuting attorney presents the case to the jury in the usual manner. Witnesses are brought in on both sides. The County Agent, who is supposed to have thoroughly investigated the home surroundings of the child, is the only defense, if no lawyer is hired to take the child's part. Practically no defense is made by the County Agent during trial. It seems that he confers with the judge after the jury has disposed of the case, and recommends to him what disposition shall be made of the child.

It should be noted that lately a change has been made from Monday to Saturday mornings for the trial of juveniles, and with some good results. At the end of the week the docket is cleared of most of the cases that accumulate over the previous Saturday night and Sunday—the inevitable drunks and disorderlies. There has been a marked improvement in other regards. However much improvement there may be, it is safe to say that there can be no permanent good results so long as the children are exposed to the contaminating atmosphere of a lower police court without the kindly guidance of efficient probation officers.

SEPARATE PLACE OF DETENTION NEEDED.

A word should be said as to the confinement of juveniles in the county jail. No doubt advances have been made there in classification and treatment. The statute above noted provides that juvenile offenders shall be kept apart from older criminals in the jail. That the juveniles are kept *apart* from older offenders is about all that can be said in favor of such confinement. After the children are found guilty in court and sentenced to the Industrial School they are taken immediately to the county jail and there incarcerated until the County Agent removes them. In some cases boys have remained in jail two weeks before being transferred to the Industrial School. Boys twelve and thirteen years of age who had never been in jail before are known to have been placed in a cage with fellows sixteen years old who had been to the Industrial School several times, and were then in jail charged with serious offenses. Is it not time that steps are being taken to provide a separate place of detention for our juvenile offenders?

It was perfectly natural, therefore, that several bills providing for better treatment of

juvenile offenders in the city of Detroit should have been placed in the hands of the House Committee on City Corporations of the present session of the Legislature. One of the bills introduced at the instance of the police justices of Detroit would, with some few changes, legalize the present method of doing things; the other is framed on the model of the Illinois Juvenile Court Law bill. It proposes "to regulate the treatment and control of dependent, neglected and delinquent children under the age of sixteen years within the city of Detroit; to establish the Juvenile Court of Detroit; to regulate the practice in such court; to provide for the appointment of probation officers; to prohibit the commitment to any jail or police station within the city of Detroit of any child under the age of fourteen years; to impose certain duties upon the State Board of Corrections and Charities and the Board of Inspectors of the Detroit House of Correction."

The juvenile court idea is a natural outgrowth of careful study given to the underlying causes of delinquency and crime. It is a recognition of the fact that crime is largely the result of neglected or misdirected childhood. By preventive measures it wisely aims to check the stream at its source. This is not an isolated idea. In business, in medicine and in our charities it has long been felt that prevention is always better, and much less expensive, than uncertain cure.

ILLINOIS MODEL FOR MICHIGAN LAW.

The first comprehensive expression of the new idea was the Illinois Juvenile Court Law. Its framers were not radical, impractical "reformers," but men and women of mature thought and legal insight. They simply embodied in legal phraseology what students of penology and sociology had for some time been working out. The drafting of such a law reflects more humane and natural methods in dealing with unfortunate children.

It gradually dawned upon those striving to solve the problem that if juvenile delinquency was to be checked the causes which produced it must be sought and, if possible, prevented. Mr. Henry M. Boies in his "Science of Penology" has recently laid down some general rules which well show the tendency of modern society in dealing with juvenile offenders. They are:

"1st. Imprisonment of juvenile and first offenders is absolutely prohibited, except as a last resort for those convicted of flagrant crimes.

"2nd. When a limited imprisonment is necessary it must be entirely by confinement.

"3rd. Juveniles and first offenders should never be confined in jail with other prisoners while awaiting trial or under remand.

"4th. The primary and supreme object of the sentence of a convicted juvenile or first offender is his rescue from a criminal life.

"5th. The character and circumstances of the accused should be carefully investigated and allowed full weight and influence in determining whether the juvenile or first offender should be tried and convicted or not."

Along the above lines great advances are being made in the trial and subsequent treatment of juvenile offenders. Public sentiment is growing in favor of having probation officers in every court where children are tried, whose duty it shall be to investigate thoroughly the home environment of every child, and report such findings to the court. The probation officer should act as friend and counselor for the child, and have it under his supervision both during and after trial. Where advisable the child should be returned to its home under the surveillance of such officers. Of course it is now recognized by enlightened officers of the law that juveniles should be kept entirely apart from more hardened offenders during and after trial.

About fifteen States now have some form of the juvenile court with a probation system. It has been found under the new system that there are much fewer commitments to reform schools, and hence a direct saving to the State. Besides this, the children are removed from the contaminating influence of criminal courts and jails and aided in living their normal lives.

PRINCIPLE VERSUS DETAIL OF THE LAW.

It is to be hoped that the citizens of Detroit will adapt a juvenile court and probation system to the needs there. It is especially necessary to provide some house of detention where children may be confined both before and after trial without undergoing the soul-blighting effects of a county jail with its formidable bolts and bars. The trial should by all means be held entirely separate and apart from older offenders. The judge might bear more the relation of friend and counselor to the child, and dispose of its case in a somewhat informal and summary manner. The officers appointed to look after the interests of the child should be removed as far as possible from political influences.

The Juvenile Court Law bill which will no

doubt be considered by the Michigan Legislature during its present session has unfortunately called forth opposition from several quarters. It is rather surprising that the opposition should have been led by men whom we expect to stand for sound principles of law and penology. Perhaps there are a few flaws in what otherwise appears to be an admirable bill. The greatest opposition seems to center upon the clauses which relate to the establishment of an *entirely* separate court, and the appointment of a salaried judge who shall give his whole time to juvenile cases. "In addition to his other duties the judge of said court shall, so far as may be, visit the homes of all the children who shall from time to time be subject to the jurisdiction of said juvenile court, secure employment and good homes for them as far as possible, etc." This it seems is too much to require of any judge, and the objection to the clause may be well founded. But these few minor details should not obscure the real worth of the bill. They could easily be adjusted if the friends of both bills would confer and reconstruct the objectionable sections. Let us hope that the public-spirited citizens of Detroit will urge the passage of a bill which embodies the essentials of a juvenile court and probation system.

THE SETTLEMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY.

The relation between the University of Michigan and Chicago Commons has become so typical of that which other universities are assuming toward the settlement movement, that all readers of THE COMMONS will be interested in the latest expression of the educational value in settlement life and service given in the following articles.

The first one, written by Prof. Henry C. Adams for the Michigan Daily News, is noteworthy because it bears the endorsement of the president and the dean of every department in the University.

Faculty Appeal for the Students' Support of the Settlement Fellowship.

A university is for the student largely what he cares to make it. Residence within the circle of its influence will yield much or little, in character or in knowledge, according to the extent to which he is willing to avail himself of the opportunities offered. So far as instruction is concerned, this truth is frankly acknowledged, but there is some reason to fear that students fail to appreciate its broader application. What is known as the University

Fellowship in Sociology—and it is of this we wish to speak—is a case in point.

For the past six years a student has been sent from the University to pass the second semester as a resident at the Chicago Commons. The Chicago Commons is a social settlement under the direction of Professor Graham Taylor of Chicago Theological Seminary. It is situated not far from the scene of the Haymarket riot and has gathered about it "all sorts and conditions of men." A social settlement has been fitly described as a place in which "to learn and to be learned of many," and certainly no place affords a better opportunity, either for the rendering of social service or for the analyzing of social forces, than Chicago Commons. The interest of the student in social settlements is found in the fact that they afford an outlet for the spirit of broad and discriminating brotherly kindness, which is one of the choicest fruits of university life; they afford, also, an opportunity for observing at first hand the social conditions from which spring some of the most dangerous tendencies of modern times.

No one who believes in the University of Michigan can regard it as a misfortune that it is situated in a small town. It is, however, something of a disadvantage that students are deprived of contact, at first hand, with some of the conditions respecting which, as good citizens and educated men, they will be called upon in after life to have an intelligent opinion. It is hoped that ultimately the University will be openly identified with settlement work in the city of Detroit. A beginning has been made in this direction. For the present, however, reliance is placed upon the Fellowship at Chicago Commons. The experiment has been well worth trying and the influence of those who have held this Fellowship, upon their return to the University, has been most helpful. It is felt, however, that this influence is limited to a relatively small circle. It is not alone students as members of Christian Associations who are interested in social settlements, but students as citizens of a Christian nation; and he makes a sad mistake who limits his preparation for life to the technical demands of a professional or business pursuit. One may observe in our times a marked tendency toward what is sometimes called "social service." This is nothing more than the application of the spirit of Christianity to industrial, social and class relations. An important manifestation of this tendency, as has been said, is the social settle-

ment, and one way by which the student body of the University of Michigan can come into touch with those influences which make for a noble character and social regeneration, is to interest themselves in this University Fellowship in Sociology. In appealing this year to the student body for contributions to this Fellowship, the main motive is to change somewhat the character of the Fellowship, and to make it truly representative of the University. It is not so much an enlarged contribution that is needed as an enlarged interest in the thing for which the contribution is made. An intelligent interest in the work of social settlements is a part of university life and an intelligent sympathy with this enlarged idea of a university is a part of education.

Signed:

H. C. Adams,
C. H. Cooley,
F. M. Taylor,

Fellowship Appointment Committee.

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Prof. Cooley's Valuation.

Prof. Charles H. Cooley, who, as instructor in Sociology has had more immediate direction of the work of the fellowship incumbents, bears this witness to its value:

"It is a common fling at university life that it is too much removed from the tough problems of the real world. Any truth that there may be in this adds interest to the movement,

now becoming quite general, for American universities to take part in the work of social settlements, which are usually situated in the so-called "slums" of our large cities and deal face to face with such problems as are to be found there.

"It is not so generally known as it should be that a part of the students of this University, with the co-operation of the faculty, are trying with some success to bring about an active relation with social settlement in Chicago and, perhaps, in Detroit.

"About six years ago certain members of the Students' Christian Association, inspired by the lectures of Miss Addams and Professor Taylor, induced that body to raise money to send a student to live for about half the college year at Chicago Commons, with the purpose of studying some social problem under the supervision of Graham Taylor, and reporting it, by thesis, when he returned to the University. At the request of the Association a committee of the faculty chose the Fellow, and he was sent accordingly. The experiment worked well and has been repeated each year, the returning Fellow being expected to diffuse the benefits of his experience throughout the University, so far as possible, by speaking before various gatherings of students and others. In this way, the Fellows forming a nucleus, there has come to a growing body of students interested in settlements and desirous to share in their work, or to express in some similar way the social spirit aroused in them. In some cases the studies have proved of distinct scientific value, and one, on the Saloon Question in Chicago, by R. L. Melendy, was published, first in the *American Journal of Sociology*, and later incorporated into a volume called "Substitutes for the Saloon." (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

"This enterprise was started and is kept up by students, and it would seem that it deserves increasing support.

Charles H. Cooley."

The response to these appeals, received at and after the public meeting at University Hall, addressed by Professor Graham Taylor, on the Function of the University in Civic and Social Progress, warranted the appointment of a Fellow, Miss Inis H. Weed, who is already at Chicago Commons working upon her investigation of Manual Training.

The very flowers that bend and meet
In sweetening others grow more sweet.

—O. W. Holmes.

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EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY
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"Americans in Process."*

LATEST INVESTIGATION BY SOUTH END HOUSE.

Once more the settlement is justified of its fruits in the new book by Mr. Woods and his associates of the Boston South End House, "Americans in Process"*. For the settlement stands for a point of view as well as for a method. It stands for the desire to understand the social situation in detail and as a whole, and for the desire to be oneself an effective working part of that whole.

This book is everywhere proof of these two desires. It is in a sense a continuation of the earlier volume of five years ago, "The City Wilderness," being a study of the North and West Ends as that of the South End of Boston. But the different characters of the district here described gives the new book its especial character.

In the first place the situation is given a singular picturesqueness from the strong local color of the North End with its colonial and revolutionary associations. From Copp's Hill burying ground and "the Old North," to Paul Revere's house on North Square, this is the Mecca of the visitor to Boston, and Italian and Jewish residents, used to staring and questioning strangers, never suspect that they themselves are also objects of curiosity.

*Americans in Process: A Settlement Study by Residents and Associates of the South End House, edited by Robert A. Woods, Head of the House. North and West Ends, Boston. Houghton, Mifflin & Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1902. 12mo \$1.50. ix. 383.

These historical associations give more than ordinary interest to the accounts by Mr. Woods and Mrs. Rutan of this district in the past and to Mr. Bushee's chapter on "The Invading Host." A fact which probably comes as a surprise to most readers is the distinct rise in the moral tone of this quarter brought about by the influx of immigrants. The long notorious North End dance hall is now a thing of the past and such vice as remains, and especially the presence of the saloons, is mainly due to outsiders,—to visitors from neighboring non-license towns and to the passing brought about by markets, railroads and waterside traffic.

It is in the wards of the North and West here studied that newly arrived immigrants mainly settle, here if anywhere that they find America. So that a study of this part of the city is most truly a study of Americans in process.

The chapter, "The Child of the Stranger," by Mrs. Atherton and Mrs. Rutan, gives a picture which falls below only the reality in interest, of the absorption of the little foreigners by the public school. It shows the relation of what the school is prepared to give to that which the boy and girl, especially the girl, is in need of. In schools where about seventy-five per cent never reach the English grade of the grammar school and where, in a recent year, of forty-two graduating from "The Master's Class," twenty-seven were born in Russia, and of these not one could speak a word of English five years before—in such schools the scant years of education are of the most vital importance to the child and to the community, and every hour should be spent so as to tell most.

It necessarily happens that various of these writers undertake appreciations of the different nationalities which live in this part of the town and everywhere is recognition of the reciprocity involved. "The immigrant nationalities are already adding variety and fresh impulse to the city's industrial and social interests. * * * The motive should be to have them affected by the American spirit, but also to have the American spirit affected by what is real in them."

Mr. Cole's chapter on "Two Ancient Faiths," is perhaps the most full of color in the book, but the deepest and most tragic interest and the most vital purpose pulsate in Mr. Woods' own chapters, especially in that on "Traffic in Citizenship," and in the concluding chapter, "Assimilation: a Two-edged Sword."

Rumor relates that one of the local bosses, whose characters and methods are here ana-

lyzed with a naturalist's painstaking, blustered and threatened suit; that Mr. Woods' friends were only too ready to face the expenses of such a suit ("It would be the greatest thing for the purification of politics that ever happened in Boston"), and that the rival boss gibes his brother for having merely given the book its phenomenal sale,—with other stories of the self exposure of justification to which the quiet statements of the book provoked its victims.

The moral of this merciless study is pointed at the well-to-do.

"It may be doubted whether evil communications are much worse than no communications at all. There is a strange ever-increasing reaction upon the life of affairs and upon social morality in Boston as a result of the rift in society between native and immigrant stocks. * * * In Athens it was the mark of the aristocracy that they governed the city, while the newly enfranchised class attended to its provisioning. In this latter-day democratic city the situation is precisely reversed. This means that the large majority of those men in Boston who are making the fullest use of American economic opportunities are fast dismissing from their minds the civic responsibilities which form the just and essential balance to those opportunities. Considering the serious nature of our municipal needs the question may fairly be raised whether the average business man in Boston is any worthier pillar of a democratic municipality than is the average politician."

Not only politically, but also in business and most seriously in religion, does this disastrous "rift in society" make itself felt. "There is a growing conviction that democracy is * * * an ethical philosophy. * * * It requires for its existence a large measure of social coherence." "The reflex influence of these communities upon the city in its entirety is so pervasive as to challenge the collective efforts of citizens and the corporate action of the municipality and commonwealth."

On this follows, in about a dozen luminous pages, what is in reality a definite program for constructive work. This might well be studied point by point to see how far its prescriptions are already carried out; how far immediately practicable; how far to be kept in mind as a goal. But this cannot be done here.

It is hard to see how any reader can leave the book without feeling at once the gravity of the conditions and an immense hope in view both of the essential wholesomeness of the new

life and of the many practical lines of co-operation opening to men of good will.

EMILY GREEN BALCH.

"Everyman."

The 15th Century morality play, "Everyman," recently produced in this country, is one few people can see without being impressed. It teaches a great moral lesson in a beautifully artistic and dramatic way. Men may, or may not agree with its theology and feel a bit strange in its medieval atmosphere, but all are conscious that it has made them realize the seriousness of life as never before. The lesson coming with all the added force that results from the acted word with its appeal to the eye, as well as the ear.

The clergy of St. Stephen's Episcopal church, realizing this, talked with Mr. Ben Greet, the manager of the company producing the play, and told him how much good they thought would result if a performance could be arranged at the South End and the tickets distributed among those who could not afford to see it at the regular theatre prices. The suggestion thrown out in a cursory sort of way, with scarcely a thought that it would be possible, found instant favor with Mr. Greet,—who had an open date he could give us. The next problem was to find the money and the place. But the plan appealed strongly to the various college settlements, who responded generously to St. Stephen's lead, and the necessary amount was soon raised. Some difficulty was experienced in getting a place and finally the "Grand," a cheap theatre, seating about 2,000, and right in the heart of the South End, was secured.

A conference of those interested was called to complete all arrangements. A finance committee, composed of Rev. Ellis Bishop, Rev. Edward Everett Hale and Mrs. Mary Morton Kehen, was to raise the rest of the money necessary, and a committee of arrangements, on which were the Rev. Thatcher R. Kimball, Mr. W. S. Cole and Miss Lillian V. Robinson, was to look after the distribution of tickets and all other details.

The centers taking the greatest interest in the matter, e. g., St. Stephen's church, Denison House, Lincoln House, South End House, the Ellis Memorial and the Women's Industrial Union, decided that the tickets should be distributed free to those the workers knew would appreciate the play, and none were to be admitted under 10 years of age, unless accompanied by a teacher or settlement worker.

There was a great demand for the tickets and more than 2,000 were distributed so that, on the night of the performance the theatre was packed and many had to stand. A mistake made was to allow a reporter to take a flash-light picture of the audience from the stage before the play began. This introduced an element that detracted from the seriousness of the occasion. The choir boys from St. Stephen's church came on the stage in their black cassocks and rendered very well three anthems, but this did not quite restore the quiet, broken by the amusement resulting from the flash-light. The audience evidently were expecting to be amused and so, when the prologue began there was much tittering and whispering among the younger people and Dethe's entrance caused an audible smile.

Very little need be said about the play itself, as so many have seen it or read about it. But from the moment Everyman came on the stage the audience was held. Miss Mathison was so strong, her personality so winning and her acting so simple, sincere and direct that few could resist her power. It was a great triumph for her. The audience was difficult—one which could not appreciate a large part of the artistic side of the production and unused to a performance so continuous, so unrelieved by humor, and with an atmosphere so strange to them, and Miss Mathison, realizing the obstacles before her, put forth her best efforts and gave a rendering of the part which probably surpassed anything she had before done in Boston, and the audience yielded to her power.

The results of the experiment were entirely satisfactory with a few minor exceptions. Even more care should have been taken in distributing the tickets, and many think they should have been sold at a low price. Nor should there have been more given away than there were seats. Those standing grew tired and contributed to the spirit of restlessness which those too young, frivolous and unappreciative manifested during the evening.

Yet in spite of that, the audience as a whole was interested and, we may well believe, deeply impressed. A few instances already reported show this. A former communicant, who had led an evil life for some years, saw it, came back to his priest to make his confession, and is making a fresh start. Another man, who had neglected attendance at church for many years, has already been for three Sundays. A shop girl in a downtown department store is reported as being very zealous in missionary work among her companions, and we are sure

that there are many more cases of a like sort which if known would bear testimony to the influence that wonderful play has exerted.

THATCHER R. KIMBALL.

St. Stephen's House.

The first of a series of conferences to be held at the various settlements in Boston was held at Denison House on Friday morning, February 6. Miss Scudder gave the address of the morning, "The Settlement Ideal." She laid emphasis on the danger of the settlement becoming, now that it is an established feature of the social order, too highly institutionalized, and so losing the finer and more spiritual quality of the first beginnings of the movement. The settlement should hold firm and true amidst all the modern threatenings against democracy, the right democratic ideals. A mere institution for clubs and classes cannot do this. The great need for the settlement of the new century is some infusion of that right dreaming spirit which sees the greater vision beyond the task.

In the more general talk which followed Miss Scudder's address, one of the points most forcibly dwelt on was the desirability of getting the outside workers—those who come perhaps once or twice a week for some class or club work, and go away without ever seeing the general workings of the house—in touch with the ideal and the distinctive field of the settlement with which they are thus connected.

BESSIE MAIN WARING, Resident.

"Two men I honor, and no third. First the toil-worn Craftsman that with earth-made implement laboriously conquers the Earth, and makes her man's. * * * A second man I honor, and still more highly: Him who is seen toiling for the spiritually indispensable, not daily bread, but the Bread of Life. * * * Unspeakably touching is it, however, when I find both dignities united; and he that must toil outwardly for the lowest of man's want, is also toiling inwardly for the highest. Sublimar in this world know I nothing than a Peasant Saint, could such now anywhere be met with. Such a one will take thee back to Nazareth itself; thou wilt see the splendor of Heaven spring forth from the humblest depths of Earth, like a light shining in great darkness."—Sartor Resartus.

The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything.—Theodore Roosevelt.

ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS, NEW YORK CITY.

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY

MARY KINGSBURY SIMKHOVITCH,

26 Jones Street, New York City.

Legislative Attack on the Tenement House Law.

The Association of Neighborhood Workers of New York is at present deeply concerned in the tenement house problem. The problem was precipitated by a surprising dose of energy expressed in the lobby at Albany by a considerable group of landlords, contractors, real estate agents, and the like. Even one or two trust companies lend a hand to the iniquitous affair. This unseemly coalition resulted in a number of bills being presented to the legislature, any one of which would demolish the safeguards of the present tenement house laws. The first bill, presented by Senator Marshall, would wipe out the legislation of forty years at a single stroke! This raised such a protest from all New York, that he sent in his apologies and withdrew from the field. Others were at hand, however, with other bills which were practically as radical, though expressed with much more modesty.

We soon discovered that behind all these bills there was a well-defined movement backed by a strong determination to importune the legislature to modify the present laws greatly to the advantage of the landlords and speculators, and not at all to the advantage of the long-suffering mortals who would, perchance, try to live in these buildings. Many buildings have been put up in violation to the present law. They want these legalized. Many old buildings are hardly fit for rats to live in. They want to rent these to human beings without any improvement. One man was actually elected to the senate on that platform alone. The problem, therefore, is a serious one.

Our first effort has been with the people who live in these houses. We have shown how dark, unsanitary rooms breed tuberculosis, the dread of the tenement house dwellers. We have further expressed to them that light, air and proper sanitation are theirs by natural right; and that they would be deprived of these by the proposed legislation. The response was instantaneous and is becoming more and more effective. We hope to raise such a volume of protest from these people that no legislator

will dare to sell their rights to any band of speculators.

On the other hand, we want to assure the tenement people of the support of their "uptown" friends. We not only have mass meetings downtown among the people who are directly affected by the proposed changes, but also are organizing all the influential people in the other districts to help in the fight.

Education is our watchword. When this struggle is over the people of New York,—of all classes,—will be thoroughly informed as to the present laws. They will appreciate more deeply than ever their interdependence, and, we are assured, will have registered their solemn protest against any legislation which places in jeopardy the lives of any of their fellows.

The newspapers have proven invaluable aids to us in quickening the public conscience along these lines. Every bit of the proposed legislation has been properly aired and thoroughly discussed. In addition to their work, we are having 50,000 circular letters printed, which go more into detail and illustrate the things in the present laws which are vitally essential.

The significance of this is felt at Albany. Our representatives have been assured that no legislation, which sacrifices the present requirements for air, light, sanitation and inspection, will be passed. We will keep on the alert until we know this is true.

H. B. Kribs, Chairman Committee.

Inter-Settlement Games and Debates.

A meeting was held April 28, 1902, at Gordon House, for the purpose of forming a baseball league. The place was romantic enough,—the hayloft of a stable, made into a clubroom through the enterprise of the boys of Gordon House. In this small room, reached by a narrow ladder, delegates to the number of thirty-five bunched themselves, some in chairs, some sitting on an old pool-table, and many standing up. The lights were not very brilliant, but the interest was keen.

The matter which excited the greatest interest was that of Sunday ball playing. The delegates from five of the eight Houses represented, preferred to play ball on Sunday. They gave in very frank and interesting testimony, much of it being of a personal nature, in favor of Sunday ball playing, usually under two heads: First, because they worked hard during the week; and, second, because they saw no harm in it; or, at least, it was less harmful than the way most young men in the

crowded parts of our city were tempted to spend their time.

It took three large gatherings and a dozen committee meetings before this and numerous other questions of organization were settled. Four of the clubs were allowed to play their games on Sunday during the early part of the season. Later in the summer all the boys had their Saturday afternoons and were able to play then.

Altogether, barring forfeits, about seventy-five games were played. Naturally, the rivalry was keen, and not a few incipient fights called for a strong hand. On the whole, however, a spirit of good sportsmanship pervaded the contests. Each club brought a following of enthusiastic "rooters." Occasionally the scene was brightened by a little splash of House colors.

At the conclusion of the season a banquet was held. About sixty players were present. Each lad paid for his own plate. After the presentation of the silver cup to the victorious nine, many of the captains spoke informally, all in praise of the winning team. There was no trace of bitterness or envy. An entertainment and dance followed the banquet, each club furnishing one or two numbers of the programme.

Notwithstanding many drawbacks, we were sufficiently encouraged by this experiment to desire to form leagues in other sports. A meeting of Head-Workers, largely attended, was held at the University Settlement on September 23d. There was considerable unanimity as to the value of these contests, but it was thought wise to report the plan to the Neighborhood Association. The plan was favorably received by the Association at its first meeting and an executive committee of five appointed, with full powers to act. Sub-chairmen were appointed, by this committee to organize leagues for basket-ball, table games, debating, and for an indoor-meet. The work of organization has all been accomplished. In the basket-ball league these are three divisions, based on age and weight. Altogether, there are fourteen settlements participating in one or more of these leagues, and the greatest interest is manifested in the standing of each house.

The indoor-meet is likely to overshadow all other contests this winter, as the splendid armory of the 7th Regiment has been secured. From present indications, at least twenty settlements will be represented in one or more events. In addition to individual medals, the house gaining the greatest number of points

will receive a banner, to be competed for from year to year. Rumor says that settlement youths are wildly excited, and may be seen dodging up side streets, with occasional greetings of "Stop thief!" strenuously cultivating good form for the sprints and long distance runs. I am also informed that vacant lots about settlements are in greater demand than ever and youngsters may be seen practicing the broad jump or "putting the shot."

To organize these leagues and manage them successfully requires an enormous amount of patient labor; but those of us upon whom most of the burden has fallen, believe that the results will more than justify the work. The traditions which gather about inter-college contests minister to the poetry and romance found in the heart of every normal boy, and even linger in the memories of old graduates. Through our inter-settlement contests we may likewise build up traditions, and produce something very nearly akin to college spirit. Even now, most of the houses have a distinctive yell; and all I think have house colors. Let us hope that with greater loyalty for the settlement may come greater sympathy for all the fine things for which the settlement stands.

The point which is of the greatest interest to me in these contests is the moral opportunity which they present. The rivalry is so genuine that moral traits, or the lack of them, stand out in bold relief. Your moral theme is no longer academic, it is immediate, vital aggressiveness, and withal, fairness,—in brief, true sportmanship.

One of the things which we need is an athletic field,—a plot of ground large enough for a half dozen baseball diamonds, tennis courts, bicycle and running tracks, and all the other features of a well-equipped athletic field. I think the time is coming when we shall have such a field for our New York settlements.

In our endeavor to bring the young men of our various settlements together we have begun with contests,—athletic contests particularly,—because they represent lines of least resistance. We should be sorry to have our work end here. Doubtless, in the future, entertainments will be exchanged, one club will give a reception to another club, and many other courtesies will be exchanged. Best of all: I think it entirely possible, beginning with these inter-settlement games, that we may eventually bring our young men together in a large body several times during a winter, and create a sort of forum for the discussion of practical, social, economic and civic questions.

Occasionally we may find it possible to unite for the accomplishment of certain good municipal undertakings, strictly non-partisan in character. Inter-settlement games and debates for trophies are good in themselves, but still I hope we may go farther.

WILLIAM A. CLARK.

Gordon House, February 16, 1903.

It is the way in which hours of freedom are spent that determines, as much as war or as labor, the moral worth of a nation.—Maurice Maeterlinck.

Hold Up Your Heads Men.

A LABOR SONG.

Words and Music by Samuel Rastall.
A Chicago Trades Unionist.

When will the day appear that cruel wars will cease,
When we can gladly say all o'er the world is peace,
When justice sways our every act and our emblem is the dove,
All share earth's bounty equally, the only ruler love?

Response:

Hold up your heads, men, the time will come!

When will the laboring man reap all that he has sown,
When will we share alike and all in common own,
When will we happy be and with a smile each other greet,
Wealth, poverty and crime be words long obsolete?

Response:

Hold up your heads, men, the time will come!

When will the nations all the golden rule observe,
When we forget ourselves and others only serve,
When will we learn that posterity to surely bless
Self-sacrifice's the only key to human happiness?

Response:

Hold up your heads, men, the time will come!

Then hold up your heads, men; the time is coming soon
When care will pass away and sunshine follow gloom.
Let us keep up the struggle so long as we have breath
For equality in life as it is in death.

Response:

Hold up your heads, men, the time will come!

The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor
from the Social Settlement Point of View.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - Editor

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A Year

EDITORIAL.

The Function of the University in Civic and Social Progress.

Every movement of real life has its counterpart in education. It centers down upon the school for the conservation and reproduction of its energy. For education is the epitome of history and experience, reproducing, as does the child, the development of the race. Back to it we come as from the breakers to the depths of the seas, from the tingling nerves to the motor centers, from the flush of the life blood to the heart whence it flows and whither it returns. However removed from the world's life the school may be, it is really a part of it, and the very spring of its power. However unrecognized or ignored the teacher may be, the scepter of influence more nearly rests in his or her heart and hand, the throne of power more nearly centers under the schoolhouse roof, than anywhere else, not excepting the domes of our capitol or the chancels of our cathedrals.

In America the public school system, including the State university, is not only the parallel but the paradox of the national history. The history of the American democracy is the record of the extremest individualism the world has ever seen. Yet the free public education given by it as a right to every child, in every township of colony and State, is the greatest social extension of the function of government in the history of the modern world. Now that the tide begins to turn and flow back to the more interdependent relationship of individual and group, of class with class, craft with craft, we may well inquire what the university, as heading up the public school system, has to contribute to the new civic and social consciousness of the nation.

To it the whole people have a right to look to impart to the body politic three elements from its own life and prerogative.

Continuity, separateness, and community are essential to consciousness. These the university has a greater opportunity to acquire, possess and impart than any other group of the people.

The time-sense of its geologists, historians and astronomers is most fatally lacking in the social movement of the people's life. From the university, therefore, society has a right to expect men and women to enter its rank and file with the capacity both to study present problems with history in mind, and history with present problems in mind. Nothing is more needed than the practical application of this capacity to our acutely strained industrial relationships for the promotion of economic peace and justice.

Separateness of the self from its surroundings is another element of personal consciousness. To realize that I am "other than the things I see" is essential to the "rounding to a separate mind," as Tennyson teaches us. So the people in their tense "cosmic struggle" for existence need those who have had the leisure to learn the separateness of soul from substance, of self from surroundings, to exemplify and teach the supremacy of men over things, of the human over the material value. The revival of interest in psychological and philosophical studies in our universities is translating itself through pedagogical principles and practice into a more spiritual ideal of life and conduct among the people.

Community of interest is as much an element of personal as of social consciousness. Without the comparison and contrast of common experiences, self-consciousness could hardly be, or certainly would be that of a far smaller and less worthy selfhood. More than anywhere else the common heritage of the race centers at, and is transmitted through, the university. In recognizing, if it does not create, a common standard of life in which each child is taught to share a part, to be one of many who share like rights and privileges, the public school and State university render a service which is as religious as it is social. For, as President King of Oberlin recently well said, "Since the vital breath of Christianity is democratic, and we cannot learn to love in a vacuum, our public schools are rendering a distinctly religious service by establishing this common standard of life and educating every one to take his or her own share in it."

Notwithstanding its great immunities and high prerogatives, culture tends to isolate itself from the race life by a narrow class consciousness. If, as Commissioner Harris defines it, "Culture is the rise of the individual into the life of the species," this isolation is not only self-stultification, but suicide. Only by pushing back this sky line to let in the thought of another mind, the ideal of another age, the aspiration of another class or people, does any life widen its horizon and gain a larger world in which to live and move and have its being.

To the privilege and duty of every one to make the most of self and the best of one's surroundings, appeal is legitimately made for an ever-growing interest and participation in the social service of the common life. To that appeal there may justly be added the obligation incurred by the possession of culture as a social trust. With great price to others, leisure to learn has been acquired by every one who enjoys it. At the cost of additional labor to many, every student is afforded that relief from toil which gives liberty to learn. In this respect, and in the buildings and educational equipment which the common industry taxes itself to provide those who are free to take advantage of these educational opportunities, every one in public or private school, State or endowed university is a "charity student." Back to the common life he owes the service of that culture which has been made possible by the sacrifices of the many. To withhold from others what makes life best worth living to oneself is the gravest breach of that sacred social trust and of common honesty under the bonds of which society places every educated life.

Tolstoy's Manliness.

The manliness with which brave old Leo Tolstoy stands under the full consequences of his words and acts in the face of all the Russias, inspires the respect even of his enemies. It likewise moves one to contempt toward those who speak from carefully sheltered positions, regardless of what happens to those who jeopardize their all in accepting and acting upon what they "say but do not." Witness this excerpt from the latest letter of the old count to the Russian ministers of the Interior and Justice and published by the Vienna Arbeiter Zeitung:

After protesting against the persecution of his followers as incomprehensible, useless, cruel, and, above everything, unjust, the letter continues:

"I alone am the guilty one in connection with the matter, for I write books containing ideas which are regarded as a danger to the state. If the government considers it necessary to suppress by force that to which it objects, it should strike direct at the origin of the evil; that is, at me, especially as I declare that I shall never cease to do that which the government regards as harmful, but what is for me a duty to God and my conscience.

"Do not, I beg you, imagine that I call on you to punish me instead of my followers, because I believe my popularity and position would render it difficult for the authorities to treat me as others are treated. So far from thinking that I occupy a privileged position, I am convinced that if the government banishes or imprisons or otherwise punishes me, public opinion will not be stirred, but that the great majority of the people will say that the step ought to have been taken long ago. I consider it my duty that you should punish me instead of those who accept my teachings, and I beg you to mitigate your severity."

The *Arbeiter Zeitung*, which is exceptionally well informed on Russian affairs, adds that on receipt of the letter the question of the arrest of Tolstoy was seriously considered, but it was finally decided not to molest him.

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By William A. Clark,

Headworker Gordon House, New York City.

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Social Significance of Church Federation.

After ten years of seemingly fruitless struggle, federation of churches has just become a fact in Chicago. Fourteen denominations are already represented on the council of fifty. At its first session three practical lines of effort were entered upon with vigor and intelligence. Endeavor will at once be made to federate churches throughout the city that naturally group together within well-defined districts and which will most readily affiliate in religious fellowship and neighborhood co-operation. In the fortnight before Easter, which is always set apart by large bodies of churches for special religious effort, it is hoped to unite many other denominations in holding a "simultaneous mission" whereby the fundamental tenets of common faith may, by concerted action, be pressed more deeply home upon the heart and conscience of the whole people. A bureau of information, research and publication is also contemplated which will serve as a "clearing house," where the diverse lines of religious and church work may exchange the values attained through observation, experience and special investigation. The collection of data directly bearing upon the life, aims, methods and relations of the churches in all their work for the community will supplement the already large collection of data in statistics and social economics which the John Crerar Library has already gathered. The committee in charge of this bureau, consisting of Professors Charles R. Henderson of the University of Chicago, and John H. Gray of Northwestern University, with Prof. Graham Taylor, president of the Federation as Chairman, will not only co-operate with the library in adding to its material, but will assist in bringing its valuable data to the knowledge and practical use of church and social workers. To the force of its executive officers the federation has already added its first "S-minary Federation Fellowship" to which it has appointed a competent graduate student of university culture and practical experience earned on city fields.

The settlements of Chicago may as surely be depended upon directly to co-operate in this movement, as they have indirectly fostered its spirit and aided its initiative.

It is a pleasure to add that the initiative to church federation in Chicago originally came from the theological seminaries in and near the city. For a dozen years, six of the seven of them maintained a "Faculties' Union," meeting twice a year for fellowship and discussion around the dinner table. Their students' Inter-Seminary Banquet annually centers and spreads abroad the federative spirit.

Chicago Commons Items.

The warden has postponed his leave of absence from professional duties until the autumn period of the academic year and expects to go abroad about the middle of May to remain until November.

His needed respite from the incessant care and continuous toil which have crowded out almost all leisure from the past ten years of his life, is still dependent upon the success of the effort which he and the trustees of Chicago Commons are now making to provide for the financial support of the settlement during his absence. At least \$6,500 must be subscribed or guaranteed within the next six weeks for current expenses during the six months of his absence. Over \$5,000 are still due before the building can stand clear of debt.

A SETTLEMENT SEMINAR.

An inter-academic seminar on "Social Observation and Research" is being held for the spring quarter by Professor Taylor at Chicago Commons. Each member outlines the plan and purpose for a proposed investigation, after which an investigator details the method and the results of an investigation actually in process or already completed.

CITY POLITICS AT THE SETTLEMENT.

Chicago Commons will be a center of political activity for all parties in the spring election. The traction issue overshadows partisan interests and, by introducing the economic and industrial elements into the city politics of Chicago, has furnished an educational opportunity which we are trying to improve to the utmost. A series of political mass meetings will be held during this month at which the mayoralty and aldermanic candidates will be heard and questioned. Each meeting is held under the auspices of the settlement with the cooperation of the party organizations of the ward. Great interest is manifested in the unique feature of having all parties and candidates present their claims in succession at one place. While the House remains independent in the mayoralty contest, each resident is free to follow his own predilections in party affiliation and work. The Community Club, composed of citizens of the ward, is using its utmost endeavor to secure the best possible aldermanic nominations from both parties, reserving the right to endorse the one whose election is considered most desirable or to nominate an independent candidate by petition. This club has been the determining factor in wielding the "balance of power" by which three elections hand-running have been won.

